



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF
**HOMELAND
SECURITY**

THOMAS M. MENINO
MAYOR

METRO BOSTON HOMELAND SECURITY REGION

Monthly Newsletter August/September 2005, Volume 6



ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Metro Boston Homeland Security Website

The Mayor's Office of Homeland Security would like to invite our area partners to visit our web site at <http://www.mbhsr.org> on the City of Boston Web Page. The site is continuously being updated with news and reports on homeland security and the Metro Boston Homeland Security Region. This site is intended to serve the needs of the region. As such, we encourage the submission of information and any additions from your agency/jurisdiction. If there is anything you would like to add please feel free to submit it to: homeland.security@cityofboston.gov, or reach us through the website's Contact Page.

Jurisdiction Points of Contact Meetings

JPOC meetings have been scheduled through October. Please mark your calendar! If you can host an upcoming meeting please notify the Mayor's Office of Homeland Security at (617)-635-1400.

Brookline – October 25, 2005

Cambridge – November 29, 2005

No Location Identified – December 29, 2005

If your jurisdiction or agency would like to host a JPOC meeting during the winter, beginning in November, please e-mail Homeland.Security@cityofboston.gov.

DISCIPLINE SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

The Regional EMS Discipline Subcommittee last met on July 21st at Fallon Ambulance Service, located in Quincy, MA. The agenda for the meeting consisted of updates regarding NIMS IS-700 compliance and training delivery methods, a brief update on IMT-3 and the Homeland Security web page, as well as upcoming training initiatives and effective tracking of homeland security EMS 03 equipment currently being purchased and procured throughout the region's EMS agencies. Conversation was also had on the need to identify EMS priorities for planning regional discipline specific and multi-disciplinary exercise programs.

During the month of August, Boston EMS has planned and sponsored a conference to take place on September 12th, 2005. This conference will involve multiple speakers surrounding the subject of Mass Casualty Incidents. Speakers include members from the London Ambulance Service, the NY State Department for Emergency Preparedness and members of Boston EMS who have had experience working MCIs. Boston EMS is also sponsoring a Train the Trainer program on September 13th on the MCI tags that the department has recently purchased and is in the process of making operational. Participants of this training include member EMS agencies from around the region.

Several EMS proposals have been submitted to the Metro Boston Office of Homeland Security over the last couple weeks regarding training that the discipline has identified as a core need in preparing its first responders. The project plan proposal recently submitted called for the support for OT/Backfill reimbursement for Boston EMS to train its department up to a radiological awareness level. This training is identical to the training that the fire discipline is currently in the process of concluding and will teach EMS first responders to recognize the effects of a radiological incident, basic measurement methods, and notification protocol. Additionally, a second proposal was submitted for members of BEMS and regional fire fighters to participate together in a joint training initiative involving radiological operations level instruction.

2003 EMS Equipment continues to roll throughout the MBHSR. Many agencies involved in receiving equipment are actively involved in tracking and notifying the MBOHS upon receipt. As the homeland security personal protective equipment and medical support supplies continue to arrive, the committee will continue to identify training and exercise initiatives that will allow first responders to understand and operate equipment in the field.

Upcoming Trainings

WMD Protection & Decontamination for Health Care Workers

September 19-21

This particular course is being offered in the evening from 4PM to 12AM.

All courses are sponsored by the DelValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness
All courses start at 8:00 am, registration begins at 7:30

Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, September 22nd at 10:00 AM. Location: Boston EMS

For more information concerning the Regional EMS Discipline Subcommittee, please contact Jonathan Dillon at jonthan.dillon@cityofboston.gov.

FIRE SERVICES/HAZMAT

The Fire Service Subcommittee continues to work towards a number of regional initiatives that have been identified as critical and short term goals.

Firehouse Software

The committee is waiting on the final software and hardware elements of the Firehouse Software regional integration project to be delivered. Once all of the components have been received, a vendor from Firehouse will visit all of the MBHSR communities and begin the processes of training, data transfers, and information integration.

Upcoming Training:

WMD / Radiological Awareness Course

Currently, 85 courses have been delivered to date throughout the MBHSR, totaling approximately 2,100 students. Six classes are scheduled during the month of September, during which the committee is aiming to train as many of the remaining 300-400 students in the region as possible. Boston EMS also plans to send 60 of its personnel to be trained in this Awareness level course.

WMD Operations Course

A joint proposal between the UASI Fire Sub-Committee and Boston EMS has been submitted to the MOHS for approval to train approximately 230 regional Fire and EMS personnel in an ODP approved 24-hour WMD Radiological Operations course (PER240). This training would build off of the Awareness level course being completed by all fire personnel in the region.

This training is tentatively scheduled to take place in January of 2006 over the course of 3-weeks at the Bayside Expo Center.

Chemical Protective Clothing (CPC) Course

The committee has identified an 8-hour CPC course in the Homeland Security Preparedness Technical Assistance Program (HSPTAP) catalogue that it is working towards delivering to fire personnel in the Spring of 2006. A train-the-trainer element is an option for the course, so the committee is looking to bring the provider up to the MBHSR and certify the regional trainers it is currently using in the AWR140 WMD Awareness.

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, Sept. 27th – 10:15AM at Chelsea City Hall.

For more information concerning the Regional Fire Service Subcommittee, please contact Mike Colanti at Michael.Colanti@cityofboston.gov.

Law Enforcement

The Law Enforcement Subcommittee has had a very productive summer. Many procurement issues are being resolved, numbers of officers trained in WMD awareness are higher than original estimates, and the major initiatives are progressing efficiently. The subcommittee is currently looking at explosive detection devices and K9 units to respond to IED and other

terrorism-related events, as well as tactical training and equipment to increase the regional capability for crowd control.

Regional Port/Anti-Terrorism Surveillance Project

The surveillance project has been broken down into two phases. The first phase includes Boston, Chelsea, Everett, and Revere, identified because they have an existing surveillance system, infrastructure, or funding. The purpose of the first phase is to ensure that each of these communities is at an operational level and to tie them into the central network through FPS at the JFK building. Currently, we are moving swiftly through the first phase. We are using LiveWave as the contractor for the interconnectivity pieces for the first phase, installation of which will begin shortly.

The remaining second phase communities are those that have no current surveillance infrastructure. Assessments of the sites for potential camera locations in each second phase jurisdiction have begun. Subcommittee representatives identified sites for camera locations and submitted lists to LE Coordinator Adam Wehrenberg. He and Commander David H. Smith of Trident Consulting, offering an anti-terrorism perspective to the site assessments, will tour the locations and determine the most advantageous method for viewing the Port of Boston and its critical infrastructure. From there, a method for awarding surveillance infrastructure across the region will be developed. Assessments will be completed by the middle of October.

Following these assessments, the RFP for the region will be drafted. The RFP will include all of the camera and transmission equipment for phase two, as well as any additional needs for the phase one communities beyond their current operational needs. The RFP will be completed by the end of October, and we look to have a contractor on board by the end of the calendar year.

Trainings

The DelValle Institute has added new dates through the end of 2005 for 24-hour Law Enforcement WMD Awareness training. For information on these dates and on registration, please contact Adam Wehrenberg at the email address below.

WMD Protection & Decontamination for Law Enforcement (24-hour)

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------|---------|
| Sept. 26-28 | 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM | Boston |
| Oct. 12-14 | 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM | Boston |
| Oct. 17-19 | 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM | Everett |

WMD Refresher Course (8-hour)

| | | |
|---------|-------------------|--------|
| Sept. 9 | 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM | Boston |
| Oct. 21 | 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM | Boston |

Locations

Boston:

Miranda-Creamer Building
35 Northampton Street
Boston, MA

Everett:

Everett Police Department
45 Elm Street
Everett, MA

Upcoming Meetings

The next Law Enforcement Subcommittee meeting will be held at the Everett Police Department at 1PM on September 22, 2005.

For more information concerning the Regional Law Enforcement Subcommittee, please contact Adam Wehrenberg at Adam.Wehrenberg@cityofboston.gov.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Public Health Subcommittee held its monthly meeting at the Cambridge Public Health Department on September 8th. The meeting featured discussions on several emergency response planning efforts, including two proposals slated for funding through the Metro Boston Office of Homeland Security.

Mass Dispensing Site Assessments:

During a large-scale public health emergency, the ability of a municipality or region to quickly provide medication to the affected public is critical to saving lives. The Public Health Subcommittee is working closely with the Metro Boston Office of Homeland Security on a project to strengthen the region's mass dispensing capability, through the funding of comprehensive physical site assessments of all identified dispensing locations in the region . These surveys will help ensure that all sites will meet the specific requirements of a mass dispensing operation.

Public Health Emergency Operation Plan Development:

The Public Health Subcommittee will soon begin a review of emergency operation plans in each municipality, from the perspective of preparing for a public health emergency. This review will help to assess best practices and identify planning gaps specific to public health readiness. From this baseline, we'll work to revise and update each individual document, and then begin to integrate them into a regional public health emergency operations plan. This will help to ensure a cohesive, cross-jurisdictional approach to our public health response planning.

Inter- Jurisdiction Communication:

It has come to the attention of MOHS that some members feel there is a lack of communication within jurisdictions between agencies. It is important that all local agencies work through their JPOC to convey concerns they have. The minutes of every subcommittee meeting are sent to the JPOCs so that they can be aware of what is going on within the Metro Boston Homeland Security Region.

Pandemic Influenza Table Top Exercise

The Cambridge Health Alliance invites area partners to participate in a pandemic flu tabletop exercise on September 29th. Lynn Schoeff of the Cambridge Health Alliance will be working in conjunction with the Advanced Practice Center, the DelValle Institute for Emergency

Preparedness, the Harvard School of Public Health Center for Public Health Preparedness, the Boston Public Health Commission and Boston EMS, to present this event. For more information, please contact Lynn Schoeff at 617-665-2300 ext. 3822, or by e mail at lschoeff@challiance.org.

Trainings

WMD Protection & Decontamination for Health Care Workers (24 Hours)

September 19th-21st. 4:00 PM - Midnight

October 24th-26th, 8:00am – 4:00pm

November 28th-30th, 8:00am – 4:00pm

December 19th-21st, 8:00am – 4:00pm

WMD/Hazmat Refresher Course (8 Hours)

(Course is for 8hr, 24hr, & 40hr candidates needing annual refresher)

October 21st, 8:00am – 4:00pm

November 4th, 8:00am – 4:00pm

December 22nd, 8:00am – 4:00pm

All courses are sponsored by the DelValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness
Registration begins 30 minutes prior to class, unless otherwise noted.

Conferences

“Medicine in the Time of Bioterrorism” Conference

November 18th, 2005

Co-sponsored by Brown University Medical School Program in Public Health, and the Center for Biodefense and Emerging Pathogens at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island

Location:

Providence Marriott

The cost of the conference is \$75. For additional information contact the Brown Medical School CME Office at (401) 863-3337 or by e mail: cme@brown.edu

Upcoming Meetings

The next Subcommittee meeting will be held at the Wellesley Gateway on October 19th between 12:45-2:15.

For more information concerning the Regional Public Health Subcommittee, please contact Liam Seward at Liam_Seward@bphc.org.

HEALTH CARE

The Health Care Subcommittee has finalized many of the reimbursement contracts between the City of Boston and the hospitals within the UASI regions. The contracts will serve to establish a relationship between the city and the hospitals for reimbursement of staff overtime/backfill costs for trainings, drills, and exercises. A lack of compensation for staff training costs was one of the foremost obstacles identified by the Health Care Subcommittee towards its goal of training large numbers of hospital workers for decontamination and mass casualty care operations.

At its August meeting, the Health Care Subcommittee reviewed many of the strategic guidance documents that have come out of the Department of Homeland Security (the National Response plan, the National Preparedness Goal, the National Planning Scenarios, etc.) with an eye towards assessing the current preparedness levels of the UASI region hospitals, the federally identified goals, and the steps need to progress towards those goals. All of these assessments and this critical thinking are intended to help refine the Subcommittee's priorities over the coming year.

The Subcommittee has also been undertaking steps to implement its proposals which received Office of Homeland Security approval; this includes working with Boston EMS, the area's private ambulance providers, the Boston Public Health Commission, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health on drafting an official request for proposal (RFP), refining the technical specifications of the desired software system and the scanning and transmitting hardware, and establishing an IT integration plan to ensure system compliance across EMS, PH, and HC systems. The Subcommittee is also working to receive final Committee approval on the draft policy on the usage of the regional PPE stockpiles and the replacement cost agreements.

Trainings, Classes, Lectures and Conferences

DelValle Institute—40 Hour Advanced WMD / Hazmat Technician Course

- November 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th. (Open enrollment class)

DelValle Institute—24 Hr. WMD Protection & Decontamination for Healthcare Workers

- October 24th, 25th, 26th.
- November 28th, 29th, 30th.
- December 19th, 20th, 21st.

DelValle Institute—8 Hour WMD/Hazmat Refresher Course (Course is for 8hr, 24hr, & 40hr candidates needing annual refresher)

- October 21st.
- November 4th.
- December 22nd.

BU School of Public Health: William Bicknell Lectureship in Public Health

“Pandemic Influenza: 40 million died in 1918. What have we learned?”

When: September 29th and 30th
Where: Boston University Medical Center, Bakst Auditorium
715 Albany Street, Boston MA 02118

“Influenza: Old and New Threats” at 4:00 PM on Thursday September 29th
A lecture by Peter Palese, professor and chairman of the Department of Microbiology at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City.

“Nature Against Man: Lessons from the 1918 Influenza Pandemic”
A talk by author John M. Barry, who is a visiting scholar at the Center for Bioenvironmental Research at Tulane University in New Orleans.

Following Barry’s talk, there will be a panel discussion with:

- George Annas, chairman of the Department of Health Law, Bioethics, and Human Rights at BUSPH
- Alfred DeMaria Jr., assistant commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Communicable Diseases
- Lone Simonsen, senior epidemiologist in the Office of Global Affairs, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health.

BU School of Public Health: Sol Levine Lectureship on Society and Health

“Fundamental Cause or Proxy? Understanding the Role of Socioeconomic Status in Health”

When: October 24th
Where: Boston University Medical Center, Keefer Auditorium

A lecture by Bruce G. Link, Professor of Epidemiology and Sociomedical Sciences at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University. The Sol Levine Lectureship on Society and Health was established by Boston University School of Public Health, Harvard School of Public Health, and New England Medical Center–Tufts School of Medicine to commemorate the life and work of Professor Levine.

Webcast from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

What Happens After the Dirty Bomb Explodes? Radiological Population Monitoring

When: November 3rd, 2005
From 1:00 to 3:00 PM

This live satellite broadcast and Webcast will explain and discuss radiological population monitoring, historical population monitoring events, immediate and long-term monitoring, contamination and decontamination, required equipment, identification of populations, and establishment of registries. A question and answer session will enable participants to pose questions to panelists. Questions may be e-mailed in advance of the broadcast to rsb@cdc.gov.

This broadcast will not offer information on medical management of radiological casualties or basic radiation principles. For information on these topics, please view the archived Webcasts titled *Medical Response to Nuclear and Radiological Terrorism* and *The Role of Public Health in a Nuclear or Radiological Terrorist Incident*. Both Webcasts can be found in the archived Webcast section of the [Public Health Training Network Website](#).

Upcoming Meetings

The Health Care Committee meets regularly on the third Thursday of each month as part of a Mega-Meeting Day with other health care preparedness communities in the greater Boston area (the Region 4C Surge Committee, the COBTH Disaster Committee, and the Boston MMRS Task Force).

The combined meeting day runs from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM, with breaks of approximately 15 minutes between meetings and a working lunch. The MBHSR Health Care meeting usually occupies the 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon time slot, but occasionally shifts its meeting time to accommodate discussions, projects, and presentations that apply to a number of committees.

During the month of September, the MBHSR Health Care Committee will meet on September 15th at Faulkner Hospital in the second floor Atrium Conference room. The schedule for the remainder of 2005 is as follows:

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| October 20 th | Mass Eye & Ear Infirmary | Executive Board Room |
| November 17 th | Faulkner Hospital | Atrium Conference Room |
| December 15 th | Brigham & Women's Hospital | Neville House Class Room |

For more information concerning the Regional Health Care Subcommittee, please contact Timothy McDonald by emailing tim.mcdonald@cityofboston.gov or by calling 617.414.1886.